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Naples, Decemb. 1.

WE have for some time had very bad weather in these parts, which hath not only detained in Port the Gallies and other Vessels designed for *Sicily*, but keeps us likewise from receiving any news from thence. The last Letters spoke of a design which the Duke *de Vivonne* had had to attack *Melazzo*, and that that had been the cause of the sudden departure of the Marquis *de Castel Rodrigo* from *Catanea* to *Melazzo*, where he arrived time enough to give such orders as prevented the Enemy in the execution of the said design. As for the Enemies besieging *Catanea*, the news we had of it some time since is not confirmed, so that we do not give any credit to it.

Vienna, Decemb. 20. The Emperors Marriage having been solemnized at *Passaw* the 14 instant, the three following days were spent in such divertisements as the place could afford, and the 18, their Imperial Majesties, being accompanied with the Duke and Duchess of *Neuburg*, parted thence for *Linz*, where they arrived the same day, and mean to remain till the seventh or eighth of the next month, when their Imperial Majesties will set out from thence on their return hither. In *Croatia* the people are very apprehensive that during this great Frost, which has made all the Rivers passable, the Turks will make an Incursion into that Countrey; and from *Gratz* they write, that 6000 Turks passed the River *Rab* near *Furstenfeldt*, and had committed great spoiles. Count *Montecuculi*, who will command the Imperial Army next Summer is preparing his Equipage, and, as we are informed, means to begin his journey to the Army about the beginning of *March*. Great murmures and complaints continue in the Empire, on occasion of Winter quarters, but in the present conjuncture of affairs they cannot be remedied.

Dantzicke, Decemb. 23. Our Polish Letters arrived this morning inform us, that several of the Provincial Dyets for the the chooling Deputies, and instructing them for the General Dyet, which will be assembled the 14 of the next month at *Warsaw*, were successfully ended, and that the necessary resolutions had been taken in them for the ratifying the late Peace concluded with the Ottomans. The same Letters add, that the King had disbanded 14000 men, but make not any mention of their going over into the service of *Sweden*, so that we know not what credit to give to what was writ concerning it from *Livonia* and *Courland* by the last Ordinary; That the King of *Poland* had been invested by the French Ambassador with the Order of the Holy Ghost, that the Ceremony had been performed with extraordinary State and Magnificence, and that at the same time the said Ambassador had presented to their Majesties on the part of the King his Master several Presents, which were valued at some Millions.

Berlin, Decemb. 24. The 22 instant arrived here an Envoy from the King of *Poland*, who, without making any stay here, forthwith continued his journey to *Postdam*, where our Elector at present resides; we do not yet know what he came about, but are the more curious to be informed, for that it has been formerly reported as if some difference was to be feared between that King and our Elector, concerning the Dutchy of *Prussia*. We have advice from *Stralsond*, that the Frost was so hard, that they could pass over the Ice from *Stralsond* to the Isle of *Rugen*, and that the Suedes to secure the same against the attempts of the Enemy had cast up several Retrenchments, and planted Cannon on them.

Copenhagen, Decemb. 26. Since the Fight between the Armies in *Schonen*, on the 14 instant, several persons come to light, which were supposed to have been slain in it. The Suedes in the mean time remain Masters of the Field, and seem to have an intention of continuing abroad the whole winter. The other day part of their Army appeared before *Landscroon*, but soon retired again; and about the same time another party came to *Helsingburg*, and attacked the Castle there, but not succeeding in it, marched off again, threatning however to return shortly with a greater force. The King of *Sweden* has since the Fight received a reinforcement of several Regiments, and is still encamped near *Malmoe*. We are informed that the said King having caused the slain which remained on the place of Battel to be counted, they amounted to 9400 Men, of which we say that not more than 3400 are missing on our side. The conquered places in *Schonen* not being able to receive all our Troops, several Regiments are come over, who are to winter here in *Zealand*. Our King has given orders for the preparing a new Train of Artillery, which is to be composed of 60 pieces of Cannon, against Spring, as likewise for making the Recruits and new Levies. It is said that his Majesty purposes to be in the Field again within five or six Weeks.

Ditto, Decemb. 27. The Suedes continue at *Helsingburg*, and though there commands in the Castle a very eminent Officer, who we are assured will not be wanting on his part to defend it to the utmost, yet we are in pain for it, seeing the Enemy is absolute Master of the Field. We lost in and after the late Fight 12 pieces of Cannon, which, it's said, were most Field-pieces, and instead thereof a new Train of 60 pieces is preparing. There lies at present two Men of War at *Helsingburg*, commanded by Admiral *Wibe*, which very much contribute to the defence of the Castle there.

Cologne, Jan. 5. This Diocess is almost quite ruined by the Troops that have at present their quarters in it, and as yet we see no likelihood of being eased of this burthen, for notwithstanding the repeated orders of the Emperor, the *Osnaburg* Troops seem resolved to winter here. The French are going to quit *Limburg*, and the Governor of that place has summoned the Boors of the Countrey of *Juliers* to work for the demolishing the Fortifications, &c. Some days since his Excellency my Lord Ambassador *Hide* passed through this City, in his return from *Poland*, his Excellency purposing to call in at *Nimeguen* in his way home.

Brussels,